



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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October 15, 2013

Patient Name
Patient Address

Dear (insert name),

The Washington State Department of Health is writing to you because facility records indicate you had a surgical procedure at the following Spokane health care facility between 2006 and April 11, 2013:

Aesthetic Plastic Surgical Center
801 West Fifth Avenue, Suite 619
Spokane, Washington 99204

During this time, an unsafe practice may have occurred during your surgical procedure. A new syringe should be used each and every time a drug vial is entered. While conducting a licensing inspection at the facility, we learned that when patients needed a second dose of anesthetic during surgery, the syringe needle was changed but the same syringe was used to reenter the vial. This is an unsafe practice because it may contaminate vials that might later be used on other patients, exposing them to the risk of infection. You can find out about safe injection practices on the "Patient Information" page of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's One and Only Campaign website (<http://www.oneandonlycampaign.org/content/patient-faqs>).

At this time, no illnesses have been directly connected to this unsafe practice. Facility records don't tell us which patients might have been exposed to a reused vial, so the only way to be sure is to be tested. The risk of becoming infected is low, but we recommend you contact your doctor to discuss being tested for hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV.

We understand that this news may cause you concern, and we want to emphasize that risk of becoming infected is low. A blood test is the only way to be sure. Bring this letter to your doctor and talk about your concerns. Your doctor will tell you how to get tested.

In the unlikely event of infection, treatment is available. An infected person could pass these diseases on to others. These infections are **NOT** spread from shaking hands, sharing food, or kissing. They can only be passed to others from intimate contact with blood or other body fluids. If you aren't infected, then there is no reason for anyone around you to be tested.

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If you have questions or concerns, call the Washington State Department of Health Office of Communicable Disease Epidemiology Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm, 206-418-5500. Information about this event as well as and hepatitis B, hepatitis C, HIV, and safe injection practices are available at www.doh.wa.gov/spokanealert .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maxine Hayes, MD, MPH". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a stylized "M" and "H".

Maxine Hayes, MD, MPH
State Health Officer